

Chris O'Brien

From: Joelle Depeyrot <joelledpeyrot@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 9:25 PM
To: Chris O'Brien
Subject: Support for Health Reform Budget articles

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

I am writing to you to communicate my support for both health reform budget articles being presented before House Finance tomorrow 7/15/20.

This pandemic demonstrates so clearly the need for every single one of us to have access to care in order for the whole of us to be healthy and well. We need affordable coverage for all to be maintained.

As a mental health professional, I am highly concerned that one of the longest and largest impact of the pandemic will be at the mental health level. Domestic violence, child abuse, substance abuse, and mental health problems are on the rise. Please make sure that our state laws ensure appropriate access to healthcare including behavioral healthcare to all.

In addition, it is through the provision of telemedicine that we are currently able to provide essential care to those most at risk for the physical and mental health impact of covid-19. As the Fall and Winter approach, the coronavirus and other communicable diseases will become an even bigger concern. We need to be able to continue providing remote care, particularly for groups at higher risk such as the elderly, people with compromised immune systems or people with lack of access to transportation. By putting into law the telemedicine extension through June 30, 2021, you will allow all of us to remain healthier.

I thank you in advantage for your time and for supporting these budget articles.

Sincerely,
Joelle Depeyrot, LICSW